

22 March 2022

Auckland Council
Private Bag 92300
Auckland 1142

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Annual Budget 22/23- Support for additional funding for COMET
Auckland.

The EMA has partnered with COMET Auckland on many initiatives in the past and is involved in several current projects. COMET does a great job of connecting and collaborating with stakeholders and partners who support the work they are doing. Without proper and consistent levels of funding COMET is constrained in its ability to innovate and create opportunities to help foster equity and mana motuhake (self- determination) for Māori and Pasifika learners.

COMET has identified a need to extend its core team to drive change towards equity for Māori and Pasifika learning. These two proposed roles - an additional Education Māori role and a new Education Pasifika role - will go a long way to enabling its team to better connect with Māori and Pasifika learners, identify how COMET can contribute to their aspirations and develop approaches/projects/partnerships that will facilitate these aspirations.

The EMA supports COMET Auckland's request for a budget increase of \$300,000, and for funding to be inflation-adjusted in the future, to help more tamariki and rangatahi in Tāmaki Makaurau to reach their potential through learning.

We believe COMET's work is important to build capability in Auckland's rangatahi and ensure they reach their full educational potential. This leads to better outcomes in future careers and enhances New Zealand businesses and our wider communities.

We recommend Auckland Council supports this request by COMET.



About the EMA

The Employers and Manufacturers Association (EMA) has a membership of more than 7500 businesses, from Taupō north to Kaitiaia, employing around 350,000 New Zealanders.

The EMA provides its members with employment relations advice from industry specialists, a training centre with more than 600 courses and a wide variety of conferences and events to help businesses grow.

The EMA also advocates on behalf of its members to bring change in areas which can make a difference to the day-to-day operation of our members, such as RMA reform, infrastructure development, employment law, skills and education and export growth.

Part of this advocacy work includes collaborating, supporting and providing an employer voice/perspective to other relevant organisations who we believe are doing work that aligns with creating beneficial outcomes which will ultimately support NZ businesses.

Yours sincerely

Alan McDonald
GM Advocacy and Strategy
Employers and Manufacturers Association